

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BOB DEPRATU**, on March 7, 2003 at 8 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bob DePratu, Chairman (R)
Sen. Bob Story Jr., Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. John C. Bohlinger (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)
Sen. Bill Glaser (R)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch
Shirley Herrin, Committee Secretary

Video-taped Committee: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. A video-taped recording of the meeting is available from the Montana Historical Society.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 186, 2/13/2003
Executive Action: SB 161 Indefinitely Postponed
SB 256 Indefinitely Postponed

HEARING ON SB 186

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

8:08 **SEN. ED BUTCHER, SD 47, Winifred,** "Constitutional Amendment for equity among sales, income and property taxes". **EXHIBIT(tas48a01)**

Proponents' Testimony:

8:34 Travis Butcher, Winifred, Self. He introduced his son and business partner, T.J. Butcher.
8:40 Terry Murphy, Rancher, Cardwell **EXHIBIT(tas48a02)**
8:41 Webb Brown, MT Chamber of Commerce. He stated that Mary Whittinghill, MT Taxpayers Association, also wished to go on record in support of SB 186
8:43 Carl Schweitzer, Kalispell and Bozeman Chamber of Commerce
8:43 Cathy Burwell, Pres/CEO Helena Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

8:44 Don Judge, Teamsters Local # 190
8:51 Brad Martin, Exec. Dir., Democratic Party of Montana
8:54 Gene Fenderson, MT Progressive Labor Caucus

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

8:57 Begin
9:11 **SEN. DEPRATU** questioned Dan Dodds, Dept of Revenue.
9:27 Ended
30 min Time Elapsed.

Closing by Sponsor:

9:27 **SEN. BUTCHER** closed on SB 186.

9:36 **CHAIRMAN DEPRATU** called for a short recess.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 161

9:58 **Motion/Vote:** **SEN. ELLIOTT** moved to reconsider action taken on January 15th that SB 161 BE TABLED. **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously. **SEN. ELLIOTT** explained in keeping with the current policies the motion should be to Indefinitely Postpone. **Motion/Vote:** **SEN. ELLIOTT** moved that SB 161 BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 256

9:59 **Motion:** SEN. ELLINGSON moved that SB 256 DO PASS.

Discussion:

10:00 Begin

10:23 Ended

23 min Time elapsed

10:24 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** SEN. STORY made a substitute motion that SB 256 BE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED. Substitute motion carried 7-4 with ELLINGSON, ELLIOTT, HARRINGTON, and TOOLE voting no and MCNUTT voting by proxy.

10:25 CHAIRMAN DEPRATU passed out a letter from the Minority Leader, SEN. JON TESTER **EXHIBIT (tas48a03)** regarding tax billing and land splits. The committee discussed the issue and will decide if they wish to request a committee bill concerning the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:32 A.M.

SEN. BOB DEPRATU, Chairman

SHIRLEY HERRIN, Secretary

BD/SH

EXHIBIT (tas48aad)